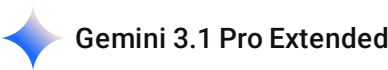


What are all the synonymous terms in the New Testament that correlate to "false brethren", etc.?



In the New Testament, the specific phrase "**false brethren**" is translated from the Greek word *pseudadelphoi* (ψευδάδελφοι). The Apostle Paul uses this exact term in two places to describe people who infiltrated the Christian community while harboring deceitful or opposing motives:

- **Galatians 2:4:** "...because of false brethren secretly brought in, who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus..."
- **2 Corinthians 11:26:** "...in perils among false brethren."

Beyond this specific word, the New Testament authors frequently used a family of related vocabulary to describe infiltrators, spiritual impostors, and deceivers. These synonymous terms fall into two main categories: direct Greek *pseudo-* (false) compounds and descriptive metaphors.

1. The *Pseudo-* Compounds

The New Testament Greek utilizes the prefix *pseudo-* (ψευδο-) attached to various authoritative titles to denote those who illegitimately claim a position or spiritual truth.

English Translation	Greek Term	Primary Biblical References	Context
False Apostles	<i>pseudoa postoloi</i>	2 Corinthians 11:13	Leaders masquerading as apostles of Christ, specifically challenging Paul's authority in Corinth.
False Teachers	<i>pseudodidaskaloi</i>	2 Peter 2:1	Those secretly introducing destructive heresies into the church community.
False Prophets	<i>pseudoprophētai</i>	Matt. 7:15, 24:11; 1 John 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1	People claiming to speak on behalf of God, often characterized as "wolves in sheep's clothing."
False Christs	<i>pseudochristoi</i>	Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22	Impostors who falsely claim the title and office of the Messiah, especially in end-times prophecies.
False Witnesses	<i>pseudomartyres</i>	Matt. 26:60; 1 Cor. 15:15	Those testifying falsely, most notably during the trial of Jesus.

2. Descriptive Synonyms and Metaphors

In addition to the exact titles above, the biblical writers used several other terms and metaphors to describe the *actions* and *nature* of false brethren:

- **Deceitful Workers (*ergatai dolioi*):** In 2 Corinthians 11:13, Paul pairs "false apostles" with "deceitful workers," highlighting that their labor and ministry are rooted in trickery rather than truth.
- **Deceivers (*planoi*):** Used in 2 John 1:7 to describe those who have gone out into the world refusing to acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. John states that such a person is "the deceiver and the antichrist."
- **Impostors / Charlatans (*goētes*):** Found in 2 Timothy 3:13, where Paul warns that "evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." Historically, this Greek term was also associated with magicians or sorcerers who used sleight of hand.
- **Antichrists (*antichristoi*):** In 1 John 2:18-19, John describes "many antichrists" who "went out from us, but they were not of us." This correlates closely with false brethren, as they are described as former insiders who proved their falsehood by defecting.
- **Savage Wolves (*lykoi bareis*):** In Acts 20:29, Paul warns the Ephesian elders that after his departure, "savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." Jesus uses the same imagery in Matthew 7:15 regarding false prophets in "sheep's clothing."

3. Terms of Infiltration

Because false brethren were characterized by their hidden agendas, the New Testament often pairs these nouns with verbs describing stealth:

- ***Pareisaktos* (Secretly brought in / smuggled in):** Used alongside *pseudadelphoi* in Galatians 2:4.
- ***Pareisduno* (Crept in unnoticed):** Used in Jude 1:4 to describe ungodly individuals who slipped into the church community to pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality.